

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 052758
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TAGS:PARM, CCD, UN

SUBJECT: CCD: PROPOSAL FOR UN COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

REF: A. GENEVA 3064; B. STATE 40373

I. PRELIMINARY USG VIEWS ON PROPOSALS REGARDING DISARM-
AMENT MACHINERY ARE SET FORTH IN REFTEL B. WITH PARTIC-
ULAR REGARD TO INDIAN STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 3 IN SPECIAL
SESSION PREPCOM (PARA 3 BELOW), WHICH IS KEYED TO TASK OF
PREPARING A COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM (CNP) OF
ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT MEASURES, WE WOULD NOTE THAT
IT IN NO SENSE INVALIDATES THE TWO UNGA RESOLUTIONS WHICH
HAVE ASSIGNED SUCH A TASK TO CCD.

2. NONALIGNED DRAFT PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR THE SPECIAL
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PAGE 02 STATE 052758

SESSION (A/AC.I87/55/ADD.I) CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING
RELEVANT PASSAGE: BEGIN TEXT. IMPLEMENTATION OF
THESE PRIORITIES SHOULD LEAD TO GENERAL AND COMPLETE
DISARMAMENT UNDER EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL, WHICH
REMAINS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF ALL EFFORTS EXERTED IN THE
FIELD OF DISARMAMENT. NEGOTIATIONS ON GENERAL AND COM-
PLETE DISARMAMENT SHALL BE CONDUCTED CONCURRENTLY WITH

NEGOTIATIONS ON PARTIAL MEASURES OF DISARMAMENT. WITH THIS PURPOSE IN MIND, THE FOLLOWING MEASURES SHALL BE TAKEN AS A MATTER OF URGENCY:

(A) ELABORATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF DISARMAMENT MEASURES WHICH WOULD LEAD TO THE ATTAINMENT OF GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT;

(B) ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE ELABORATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF DISARMAMENT MEASURES TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE THIRTY-FIFTY REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1980 AT THE LATEST. END TEXT.

3. EXTRACT FROM INDIAN FEBRUARY 3 STATEMENT: BEGIN TEXT. THERE IS NEED FOR TWO BODIES -- A COMPARATIVELY LARGE DISCUSSION OR DELIBERATIVE FORUM AND A COMPARATIVELY SMALL NEGOTIATING BODY. WE FEEL THAT THE CCD, WITH APPROPRIATE MODIFICATIONS IN ITS STRUCTURE AND WORKING PROCEDURES CAN FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY AS THE NEGOTIATING BODY. AT THE SAME TIME WE FEEL THAT THERE IS A STRONG CASE FOR ANOTHER BODY -- A DISCUSSION, DELIBERATIVE BODY FOR OUTLINING BROAD POLICIES AND, AS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED IN THE PAPER SUBMITTED BY THE NONALIGNED COUNTRIES, FOR THE ELABORATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF DISARMAMENT MEASURES. THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF DISARMAMENT MEASURES HAS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 052758

BEEN CORRECTLY DEFINED AS A MIDDLE ROAD BETWEEN THE CURRENT STEP BY STEP APPROACH AND THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT. RESOLUTION 2602 E (XXIV), WHICH DECLARED THE DECADE OF THE 1970'S AS A DISARMAMENT DECADE, REQUESTED THE CCD TO WORK OUT "A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME, DEALING WITH ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM OF THE CESSATION OF THE ARMS RACE AND GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT UNDER EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE CONFERENCE WITH A GUIDELINE TO CHART THE COURSE OF ITS FURTHER WORK AND ITS NEGOTIATIONS." THIS WAS MORE THAN EIGHT YEARS AGO. WE ARE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS OF THE DISARMAMENT DECADE AND ALTHOUGH VERY USEFUL SUGGESTIONS IN REGARD TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME WERE SUBMITTED A LONG TIME AGO, THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE, IF ANY, PROGRESS IN THIS DIRECTION. WE FEEL, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO CONSIDER SPECIFICALLY THE SETTING UP OF A BODY ENTRUSTED WITH THE TASK OF ELABORATING THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME FOR DISARMAMENT MEASURES. THE NONALIGNED PAPER SUGGESTS THAT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS BE SET UP WITH THIS LIMITED TASK TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN A SPECIFIED TIME

FRAME.

I AM AWARE, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT SOME DELEGATIONS HAVE RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE SETTING UP OF A UN COMMITTEE

TO DEAL WITH DISARMAMENT MATTERS. SEVERAL ARGUMENTS HAVE BEEN ADVANCED AGAINST IT BUT NONE OF THESE ARGUMENTS ARE, IN OUR VIEW, VERY VALID.

IT HAS BEEN SAID -- AND PERHAPS THIS IS THE ARGUMENT MOST OFTEN MADE -- THAT THE UN COMMITTEE WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE THE IMPORTANCE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CCD. WE TOTALLY DISAGREE WITH THIS. AS I HAVE TRIED TO EXPLAIN, THE CCD AND THE UN COMMITTEE WILL HAVE DIFFERENT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 052758

FUNCTIONS. WE ARE NOT PROPOSING THAT THE UN COMMITTEE SHOULD SIT IN JUDGEMENT OVER THE CCD OR HAVE ANY OVERSEEING ROLE AS FAR AS THE CCD IS CONCERNED. THE TWO BODIES WILL REPORT SEPARATELY TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PROGRESS THEY HAVE MADE IN CARRYING OUT THE MANDATES GIVEN TO THEM.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THE UN COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO WORK UNDER THE RULES OF PROCEDURE APPLICABLE TO UN BODIES. THIS IS BOUND TO BE SO BUT I DO NOT SEE ANY REASON WHY THE COMMITTEE CANNOT FUNCTION AS THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE HAS SUCCEEDED IN DOING OVER THE YEARS, NAMELY TO WORK AS FAR AS POSSIBLE ON THE BASIS OF CONSENSUS.

IT HAS BEEN ALSO SAID THAT IF TWO SEPARATE BODIES WERE TO FUNCTION INDEPENDENTLY, MANY GOVERNMENTS WILL HAVE SERIOUS DIFFICULTY IN PROVIDING THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE TO BOTH THESE BODIES. I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN THAT IN OUR VIEW THE PROPOSED UN COMMITTEE WILL NOT MEET THROUGHOUT THE YEAR BUT WILL PROBABLY HAVE ABOUT TWO SESSIONS. IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE THE MEETINGS OF THE UN COMMITTEE IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT TO CLASH WITH THE MEETINGS OF THE CCD.

APART FROM THE PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS I HAVE DEALT WITH, THERE IS ALSO THE FACT THAT IF ON OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS WE HAVE THOUGHT FIT TO SET UP STANDING ORGANS OF THE UN, WE AND, I AM SURE, THE WORLD PUBLIC CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY ON AN ISSUE SUCH AS DISARMAMENT WHICH AFFECTS THE LIVES AND DESTINY OF THE WHOLE OF MANKIND, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO SET UP A SIMILAR BODY AT THE UNITED NATIONS. WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE SUGGESTION TO SET UP A UN COMMITTEE
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PAGE 05 STATE 052758

TEE ON DISARMAMENT WILL RECEIVE THE ENDORSEMENT OF THIS
COMMITTEE. END TEXT. VANCE

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